

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 17, 2004 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Claims 1, 3, 13, 15 and 18 are currently amended. Claims 2, 4-12, 14,16 and 17 have been previously amended.

A check and a Request for Three Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

The rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, have been addressed by amendments to claims 1, 3, 13, 15 and 18. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 USC 101 have been addressed by amendment to independent claims 1 and 15. Specifically, the functional steps of comparing the attributes of the document or e-mail to the attributes or weighted values of the storage location have now been clearly conveyed.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,915,251 to Burrows et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

United States Patent No. 5,915,251 ('251) to Burrows et al discloses an indexing system that is no more than the hierarchical indexing structure mentioned in the preamble of the Applicant's application. The '251 Burrows et al system is extremely complex: each word within a document is given two values, which uses large amounts of processing and storage memory. When a document is added or removed from the '251 Burrows et al system, the entire indexing system needs to be updated. This is clearly impractical. Applicant's application avoids this problem by giving values to the locations in which the documents are stored, thereby allowing groups of related documents to be stored in the same storage location. There is no teaching in '251 Burrows et al patent of storing

a plurality of documents in a particular storage location as a result of a correlation of attributes of the documents and the location itself. Therefore, Applicant sincerely believes that currently amended independent claims 1 and 15, with dependent claims 2-14, and 16-18, are novel over the Burrows et al '251 patent.

In addition, the '251 patent to Burrows et al discloses an indexing system that uses both literal and numerical indexing values in the same database. Each record to be indexed is given a literal value and a numerical value and each record value is stored in the database. Values within specified ranges can then be located by a user. Also, in the '251 Burrows et al patent each document/record is given a value rather than the storage location in which the record/document is to be located, as in Applicant's invention. Thus, the '251 Burrows system makes no comparison between attributes of incoming documents and attributes and weighting values of storage locations, nor does it weight one storage location relative to another storage location with respect to specified attributes to allow the best storage location for an incoming document to be determined.

Further, the locations disclosed in '251 patent are not capable of storing a plurality of documents as in the present invention. Thus, Applicant believes that the '251 patent to Barrows et al does not destroy the novelty of currently amended claims 1 and 15 and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 5 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows et al. Applicant's claims 5 and 18 depends upon currently amended independent claims 1 and 15 and, therefore, are believed to be novel over the '251 Burrows et al patent for the same reasons stated above. Applicant's claim 8 has been currently amended to more clearly define that the attributes and weighting values of the storage locations are stored in a companion database. This

method is not taught in the '251 Burrows et al patent. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows et al in view of United States Patent No. 6,189,001 to McGovern et al. Applicant's claim 9 depends on currently amended independent claim 1 and is therefore novel over the cited references for the reasons stated above.

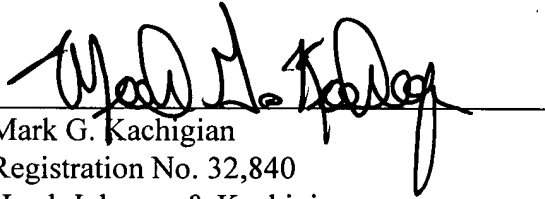
Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows in view of United States Patent No. 6,212,517 to Sato et al. The '517 patent to Sato et al is directed toward a document retrieval system rather to a filing system and is, therefore, not relevant to the present invention. Applicant's claim 13 is currently amended to define that the correlation and selection of the storage location for the incoming document is made with respect to the statistically differentiating key words for the storage locations in the companion database. In addition, claims 12 and 13 depend from currently amended independent claim 1. Applicant believes that since these claims depend on currently amended claim 1 they are patentable over the cited references as previously stated herein.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections based on the above amendments and arguments.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any fees or charges are associated herewith, please credit deposit Account No. 08-1500.

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark G. Kachigian', is written over a horizontal line.

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